

CHAPTER SIXTEEN

In the Sweat of Thy Face...

Industriousness has been a vital part of the community spirit in Midway since the area was first settled. Through the years the people have worked together to build their community and to develop the trades and industries needed to sustain life.

The early settlers pooled their individual skills to build homes and make roads, to erect a fort for protection and to raise crops to keep them through long, hard winters. Later, as life became established, there were many community service industries that developed, such as grist mills, blacksmith shops, sawmills, creameries and others.

As treasures in the earth were discovered in the Midway area, a booming mining industry sprang up and flourished for some time. The advent of electricity gave rise to a new industry of electrical power generation, which in turn saw the growth of dam building on Provo River and other streams.

Commerce in Midway has included business houses such as grocery stores, meat markets, livery stables, department stores and hotels and boarding houses. Saloons and pool halls have also existed.

Following are accounts of the various industries and trades.

CARPENTERS

Men with skill to build with wood and nails and fashion furniture were badly needed in the early days of any community, and Midway was no exception. Fortunately, Midway had many who were skilled in the building trades, and they added much to the community.

Many of the first settlers that came into Midway were craftsmen who had been trained in carpentry in Europe or in the east. Many of them had helped erect the Nauvoo Temple and then had moved west with the Church under Brigham Young.

Homes, schools, churches and furniture were built by the hands of these craftsmen. Their skills also extended to tiny pieces of furniture for their little daughters at Christmas time, and to coffins in times of bereavement.

Such craftsmen as Moroni Blood worked on many coffins of native lumber, building them with patience and love. With his work-hardened hands Mr. Blood tacked lace around the edges of the box to lessen the harshness of death.

Included among Midway's carpenters are such men as Jeremiah